



February 28, 2014

Legislative Report No. 9 2014 Kentucky General Assembly

Today marks the thirty seventh legislative day of the 2014 session of the Kentucky General Assembly. To date there have been a total of 373 Senate bills and resolutions and 617 House bills and resolutions introduced. The last day to introduce a House bill is March 3 and the last day for new Senate bills is March 5.

The House will likely complete their work on the state budget the week of March 10. It looks like funding for the Breathitt Veterinary Center will remain in the House version of the budget. We are also seeking ways to increase the amount of tobacco settlement dollars for agricultural development projects in FY 16.

A provision we are trying to remove from the state budget is one that would allow PVA's to charge a fee to special taxing districts for use of the PVA assessment in levying their property taxes. This provision, if enacted, would be a financial hardship to our soil conservation and extension districts.

[HB 448: T. McKee, T. Turner, M. Denham, J. Kay, M. Meredith, R. Quarles, B. Rowland, S. Rudy, J. Short, R. Smart, W. Stone - AN ACT relating to destruction of crops on farms by wildlife.](#)

This bill would allow landowners, their spouses, dependent children, or their designees to kill or trap on their lands any wildlife causing damage to the lands or personal property without a tag or permit and allow disposal of the carcass on-site. This bill will also streamline the process of removing the carcass from the farm to have it processed. It will require inedible parts from wildlife not to be utilized for any purpose and allow the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to promulgate regulations establishing procedures for the designee appointment process. This bill has been assigned to the House Agriculture and Small Business Committee and will be heard in committee on Wednesday March 5.

KFB Priority Issue:

"Support effective wildlife management that will reduce the wildlife population in an effort to alleviate continued crop and livestock losses."

Action Request:

Please contact your Representatives and ask them to **SUPPORT HB 448.**

Below are a few specific bills we are following:

[SB 44: P. Hornback, D. Parrett, D. Givens - AN ACT relating to motor vehicle weight tolerance.](#)

This bill would provide a weight tolerance of 10% for commercial vehicles that are engaged in the transportation of agricultural products. This bill has passed the Senate and was received in the House on February 5. The bill was assigned to the House Transportation Committee.

KFB Policy:

"We support the 10% weight exemption on farm trucks and trucks servicing farms hauling agriculture products, similar to the same benefits currently given to the transportation of primary forest products."

Action Request:

If your Representative is a member of the House Transportation Committee please contact them and ask them to **SUPPORT SB 44.**

For a list of committee members please [click here.](#)

[HB 173: S. Westrom, J. Adams, J. Crenshaw, D. Graham, J. Greer, J. Jenkins, M. Marzian, D. Owens, D. Watkins - AN ACT prohibiting smoking in public places and places of employment.](#)

This bill would prohibit indoor smoking in businesses, places of employment, and other listed public places and would exempt private residences, unless used for child care or adult day care. It would also permit local governments to adopt stricter regulations by ordinance and provide for enforcement by all peace officers and designated health department and local government employees. This bill has passed the House Health and Welfare Committee and now is awaiting action by the full House.

KFB Policy:

"We believe business owners should have the exclusive right to prohibit tobacco use in their private business. We are adamantly opposed to any level of government or agency mandating that businesses prohibit tobacco use."

Action Request:

Please contact your Representative them to and ask **OPPOSE HB 173.**

There have been two bills introduced this week dealing with noxious weeds.

[SB 170: D. Parrett, P. Hornback – AN ACT relating to noxious weeds and invasive plants.](#)

This bill would revise the list of noxious weeds and invasive plants to be eradicated from the state rights-of-way and provide that the Department of Highways shall promote awareness of the eradication program through the use of electronic media and the Cooperative Extension Service and allow the department to, by administrative regulation, add noxious weeds and invasive plants to or delete them from the list and establish factors the department may consider in making a determination regarding the addition or deletion of a plant and provide that the department shall review the regulation at least once every four years.

[HB 434: R. Smart, T. McKee, M. King, Ji. Lee, S. Overly, B. Yonts - AN ACT relating to the eradication of noxious weeds and invasive plants.](#)

This bill would revise the list of the noxious weeds to be cleared from state rights-of-way and urge continued university research on noxious weeds and invasive plants. This bill was assigned to the House Transportation Committee but has not yet been posted for consideration.

Reminder:

The Kentucky Farm Bureau Legislative Drive-In will be held **Tuesday, March 4, 2014** in the auditorium at the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, located at 200 Mero Street, in Frankfort beginning at 9:00 a.m. We encourage you to bring a car load to visit your senators and representatives. Please call them in advance to schedule a visit at 502.564.8100. This is a great opportunity to show your legislators your appreciation for their votes as well as discussing issues affecting agriculture that are still pending this session.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS

During the week, you may reach your representative and senator in Frankfort by calling 502.564.8100.

If you do not desire to talk to your state legislator immediately or you just want to leave a message, you may dial toll-free 800.372.7181. An answering service will take your message for your representative or senator. The legislative calendar information line is 800.633.9650, the bill status line is 866.840.2835, and the Governor's office number is 502.564.2611

YOUR LOBBYISTS

The following are registered to lobby for Kentucky Farm Bureau for the 2014 session: Jeff Harper, Public Affairs Director, extension 5104; Bryan Alvey extension 7218; Tony Sholar, extension 5121, Beth Wisman, extension 5105, and David S. Beck, extension 5101. If you would like to call your lobbyists during the evening, call 502-352-4280 at the Frankfort headquarters or call 502.495.5000 and key in their extensions.

If you would like to contact one of your lobbyists during the day, please call Sara Stivers at 502.495.5121 and she will put you in touch with one of them.

The Legislative Report and KFB's Priority Issues are also on KFB's website at kyfb.com and the KFB app.